· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.25 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 28 JULY 27, 2009

INSIDE

'Cuba has right to its destiny' says Cuban revolutionary in U.S. jail

—PAGE 8

Oppression of Uighurs sparks clash in China

BY CINDY JAQUITH

July 13—Recent clashes between Han Chinese and oppressed Uighurs in the Xinjiang region of Western China left at least 184 people dead. Beijing sent more than 20,000 troops into the province and arrested 1,434. On July 13 police killed two Uighurs.

The conflict marked both the explosive character of national oppression in China and the rising competition within different layers of the Chinese working class, as the world capitalist economic crisis deepens.

In late June two Uighurs working in a factory hundreds of miles away in Guandong Province were killed and 60 injured when Han Chinese workers attacked them after an Internet posting claimed Uighurs had raped a Han woman. The rumor was found to be false.

According to the Hong Kong–based China Labour Bulletin, the hundreds of Uighurs working in the plant of 18,000 were paid less than Han workers.

The recent clashes in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, followed a July 5 demonstration of hundreds of Uighurs, most of them students, to protest discrimination and the killing of the two Uighur workers. Over the next few days, groups of both Uighurs and Hans began attacking each other with homemade weapons throughout Urumqi, reported the *Wall Street*

Continued on page 7

Unions in California protest cuts in services

BY ERIC SIMPSON

SAN FRANCISCO—Across the state of California, draconian cuts to public services are generating protests. Some 1,000 workers demonstrated at the Los Angeles County Building June 22, sponsored by several Service Employees International Union locals, the United Teachers of Los Angeles, and Planned Parenthood.

California's state controller began printing IOUs July 2 in lieu of cash payments toward tax refunds, vendor services, and to local governments. The interest-bearing certificates might be redeemable on October 2, if the state has the cash to meet around $3 billion in obligations. Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, and J.P. Morgan Chase banks said that they would stop accepting the IOUs by July 10.

Health-care worker Henriqueta Hernandez told the *Militant*, "They want to cut health-care programs. We have to fight against the budget cuts because it affects our patients getting the care they deserve and will mean layoffs for the workers."

Two hundred and fifty Medi-Cal (Medicaid) recipients demonstrated on June 30 in Sacramento, the state capital, to protest cuts in basic services that were decided upon last February and went into effect July 1. Eliminated are: dental, podiatry, op-

Continued on page 3

Workers in N.Y. sign to put socialists on ballot

Over 15,000 signatures collected in 9 days

Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers candidate for New York public advocate (center), campaigns to put New York SWP candidates on ballot outside Stella D'oro cookie factory in the Bronx July 8. Stella D'oro workers recently won favorable court ruling after 11-month strike. At left is Eddie Marrero, one of returning strikers; to DeLuca's right is SWP campaigner Becca Williamson and Oscar de la Rosa, neighborhood resident and strike supporter.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK, July 15—In a nine-day blitz campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party candidates here capped off a successful effort by collecting 15,508 signatures to place Dan Fein on the ballot for mayor and Maura DeLuca for public advocate. They also collected 8,115 signatures for Tom Baumann, the party's candidate for Manhattan borough president. That's double the required amount.

Fein and DeLuca are union sewing machine operators. Baumann is a stu-

Continued on page 10

U.S.-devised talks seek stability for imperialists in Honduras

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The U.S. government is organizing to put together a stable regime in Honduras in the wake of the ouster of President Manuel Zelaya. Both Zelaya and Roberto Micheletti, installed as president by the Honduran congress, have taken part in U.S.-orchestrated talks mediated by Costa Rican president Oscar Arias.

The crisis in Honduras erupted when Zelaya moved to hold a referendum on whether to change the constitution to allow the reelection of future presidents, despite opposition by the majority of the two dominant capitalist parties, including his own, the Liberals.

Since his election in 2005 Zelaya, a timber and cattle magnate, largely pursued Liberal Party policies, from hiring more police to the "war against crime" to raising the minimum wage to just below the poverty line. He an-

Continued on page 11

Chauvinist strike deal in UK is blow to uniting working class

BY CELIA PUGH

LONDON—Construction workers at the Lindsey oil refinery in Lincolnshire in the north of England agreed June 29 to return to work after a deal between the French-owned Total company and the Unite and GMB unions.

The strike and agreement is a rerun of reactionary strike actions in January and May against foreign-born workers and are a blow to working-class unity.

Under terms of the agreement, 51 workers who were made redundant (laid off) and another 647 who were sacked as a result of the strike were reinstated. The unofficial strikes around the country began June 11 when the 51 jobs were cut while the company continued to hire immigrant workers. An estimated 3,000 contracted oil and gas workers from around the United Kingdom joined these actions.

On the eve of the settlement Unite general secretary Les Bayliss met with the employers to tackle "grievances" over hiring and firing at the refinery.

The London-based *Guardian* newspaper reported that the discussions included a previous agreement with the unions that no British workers would lose their jobs while Italian and Portuguese immigrant workers were still on the work site. The foreign-born workers were shipped in on a barge at Grimsby docks.

GMB general secretary Paul Kenny announced that the union had launched a £100,000 (US$162,000) hardship fund for the strikers and was pressing ahead with a national ballot of thousands of workers in the industry on the settlement. Total reported that the action had left the construction project next to the Lindsey site six months behind schedule.

Socialist Worker, a newspaper re-

Continued on page 3

Health-care 'reform' bills boon for bosses

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Bills promoting "health-care reform" being debated in Congress would bring a profit boon for insurance companies, a rising expense for working people, and large cuts in funding for Medicare and Medicaid. President Barack Obama's administration has declared passage of a health-care bill one of its legislative

Continued on page 11

Also Inside:

High court may rule on Troy Davis appeal in fall 2

Class, sexist bias behind anti-Palin commentary 3

Washington to ship arms to Afghanistan via Russia 4

N.Y. meeting launches socialist ballot effort 9

High court may rule on Troy Davis appeal in fall

BY RACHELE FRUIT

ATLANTA—The U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will not consider an appeal by Troy Davis until late September, according to a note posted June 29 by Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. "We remain committed to maintaining the momentum here," the group wrote.

The same day Davis's supporters delivered petitions with 60,000 signatures to the office of Chatham County's district attorney, asking that a new trial be granted for Davis based on questions raised in his appeals.

Davis, an African American, has spent nearly 18 years on death row after his conviction for the 1989 slaying of a white Savannah police officer, Mark MacPhail. There was no physical evidence tying Davis to the crime. Seven out of nine state witnesses have since recanted their testimony, some saying they were pressured by the cops to testify against Davis.

Attorneys for Davis say that new evidence proves their client was a victim of mistaken identity. They say three people who did not testify at his trial have said that another man confessed to the killing.

About 25 people from the NAACP and Amnesty International handed a stack of petitions more than two feet high to Lydia Sermons, spokeswoman for District Attorney Larry Chisolm, at a news conference outside the Chatham County courthouse.

"We have sufficient evidence, we believe, to show that Troy Anthony Davis is innocent," said Prince Jackson, president of the NAACP's Savannah branch. "We are asking that he be given a chance. After all, his life is at stake." "He [Chisolm] doesn't have to wait for them," said Martina Correia, Davis's sister. "He could still open this case at any time."

In Washington, D.C., NAACP president Benjamin Jealous said, "The execution of a likely innocent man must not proceed, and we are thankful the court has put the brakes on Troy's execution. We read the Supreme Court's delay as a message to the state of Georgia to resolve the issue by reopening the case in the state courts."

Laura Moye of Amnesty International said, "This delay is an indication that the Supreme Court is concerned by the gravity of Troy Davis's innocence claims. We will continue to call on all authorities, including the Supreme Court, to finally hear the evidence that has motivated hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to raise their voices and demand justice."

The case has attracted public support all over the world. Prominent individuals, including former U.S. president James Carter, Pope Benedict XVI, and Nobel Peace Prize–winner Desmond Tutu have issued calls to stop Davis's execution.

Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, was among those who traveled to Savannah to collect signatures on the petitions for Davis. Potash and her supporters have made the fight to stop the execution and to win freedom for Davis an important part of her campaign. They have joined marches, rallies at the state Capitol, and the petitioning effort in Savannah.

Kathryn Hamoudah

Canvassing team that circulated petitions in Savannah, Georgia, June 7 requesting a new trial for Troy Davis. At right is Martina Correia, Davis's sister. Petitions with 60,000 signatures were delivered to office of Chatham County's district attorney June 29.

"The death penalty is a weapon of terror used against the working class in this country," she explained. "Our campaign joins with others to use this time to continue the fight to free Troy Davis."

Davis's supporters are also campaigning to get the state's Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens to allow the media access to Davis so that he may tell his story. While the media has been allowed to interview other inmates, 60 Minutes, Dateline, and the Associated Press have all been denied access to Davis.

The Georgia anti–death penalty group, the NAACP, and Amnesty International are organizing several campaigns to defend Davis. These include calling District Attorney Larry Chisholm's office at (912) 652-7308 to ask that Davis's case be reopened, writing letters to the editors of local newspapers, and joining the petitioning campaign in Savannah.

'Militant' 2008 index is available

BY ANGEL LARISCY

The *Militant* has produced an attractive and politically useful index for all of its 2008 issues.

The 24-page English and Spanish index, organized by subject and author, makes it easy to find any article from either the *Militant* or *El Militante*.

Interspersed with article listings are a selection of full color and black and white photos of protest actions, and struggles by workers and youth worldwide for unions and union contracts, against immigration raids, police brutality, and for the Cuban Five, and women's right to choose abortion that appeared in the paper during the year.

Any *Militant* reader who regularly uses the paper as a source will find the index invaluable.

The index can be purchased through a distributor (listed on page 6) for only $3 or you can order a copy to be mailed to you for $5 by sending your name and address to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th fl., New York, NY 10018.

Order your 2008 index

Send orders to: The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 10th fl., New York, NY 10018. The price is $5 per copy, or $3 if ordered from local distributors on page 6.

THE MILITANT

Defend democratic rights!

The 'Militant' covers the fight against the frame-ups of Muslims entrapped by government informers and incarcerated on 'conspiracy' and 'terrorism' charges. These moves are part of a growing attack on the democratic rights of all working people.

Militant/John Staggs

Protest in Washington, D.C., July 3 for freedom of five men framed-up for "conspiring" to attack soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, US$10 • Continental Europe, £18 • France, 12 Euros • New Zealand, NZ$7 • Sweden, Kr60 • All other areas, US$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 73/No. 28

Closing news date: July 15, 2009

Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Ved Dookhun, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso

Published weekly except for one week in January and one week in July.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send $85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian $45 to the Militant, 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, Montreal, Quebec. H2S 2N1.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £75 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

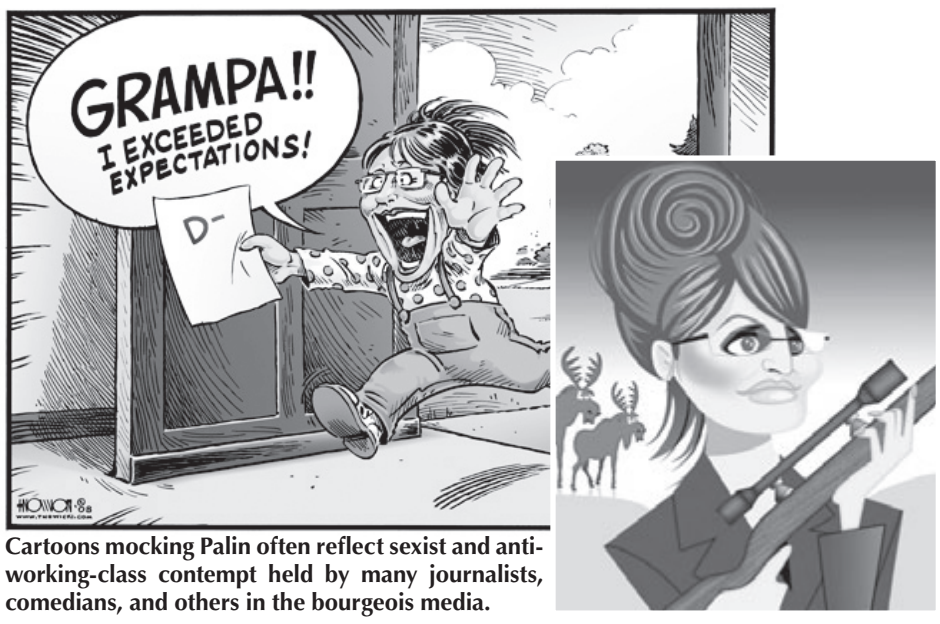
New Zealand: Send NZ$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Class, sexist bias behind anti-Palin commentary



Cartoons mocking Palin often reflect sexist and anti-working-class contempt held by many journalists, comedians, and others in the bourgeois media.

BY BEN JOYCE

In the weeks leading up to and after the July 3 announcement by Alaska governor Sarah Palin of her resignation, many liberals in the media and some conservatives have made her a target of a stream of antiwoman and anti-working-class commentary, portraying her as glamorous and dimwitted while emphasizing her appeal to some working people.

In fact, Palin was a businesswoman before she became governor, and later nominated as the Republican 2008 vice-presidential nominee. Her policies are no more pro-working-class than those of the Democrats.

The barrage of sexist attacks on Palin comes just weeks after "Late Night" show host David Letterman told a series of antiwoman "jokes" about her recent visit to New York. In his June 8 comedy routine he said, "One awkward moment for Sarah Palin at the Yankee game during the seventh inning. Her daughter was knocked up by Alex Rodriguez." (See June 29 *Militant*)

In a July 5 issue of the *New York Times*, Op-Ed columnist Maureen Dowd characterized Palin's resignation speech as "girlish burbling." Dowd likened Palin to a Barbie doll and portrayed her decision to resign as one of her "country-music melodramas."

The August 2009 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine contains a feature article on Palin that objectifies her in the lead sentence, stating she "is still the sexiest brand in Republican politics." The article asserts that Palin is "by far the best-looking woman ever to rise to such heights in national politics, the first indisputably fertile female to dare to dance with the big dogs."

Then on July 8 Sally Quinn, a liberal columnist for the *Washington Post*, wrote a piece headlined "Palin's peculiar family values," which denounces Palin's decision to get involved in politics rather than "put her family first."

"This is a woman who accepted the nomination for vice president with a three-months-old special needs child and an unwed 17-year-old daughter pregnant by another high-schooler," wrote Quinn. "This is a woman who then spent two months on the road, relentlessly campaigning, dragging the baby around with her." Palin's son Trig, who has Down syndrome, was born a few months before she accepted the nomination as Republican vice-presidential candidate.

Quinn's article epitomizes liberals' contempt for young people who choose to bring a pregnancy to term rather than go to school or pursue a "career." "When her extended dysfunctional family, including the father of her daughter's baby, began to surface," Quinn wrote, "she blew that up into a major media event instead of keeping her silence."

The article rationalizes the sexist comments made by Letterman, arguing that he was not referring to 14-year-old Willow Palin, but to 18-year-old Bristol, who Quinn says is a "legitimate target for public criticism" because of her decision to go on tour to promote teen abstinence.

On June 9 Letterman again attacked Palin, saying the hardest part of the New York trip was "keeping Eliot Spitzer away from her daughter."

Letterman also did a "Ten Top Highlights of Sarah Palin's Trip to New York." Highlight number two was: "Bought makeup at Bloomingdale's to update her 'slutty flight attendant' look."

Palin responded in an interview with Matt Lauer on the "Today Show" June 12. "My first thought was, 'Hey, don't disparage flight attendants. They work hard—we love them,'" she said.

The *Wall Street Journal* ran an opinion piece July 11 written by Peggy Noonan, personal assistant to former U.S. president Ronald Reagan and chief speechwriter for George H. Bush. The article accuses Palin of stupidity, saying that she "was out of her depth in a shallow pool," and that she doesn't read anything.

Noonan's article takes issue with the claim that Palin is working class, not because of Palin's reactionary politics, but because her family is made up of "middle-class figures of respect, stability, and local status." She continues, "I think intellectuals call her working-class because they see the makeup, the hair, the heels and the sleds and think they're working class 'tropes.'"

Workers in California protest service, jobs cuts

Continued from front page

tometry, and five other services the federal government does not require state Medicaid programs to provide. An estimated 2.8 million people are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

A protest in Oxnard in early June was organized by Clínicas del Camino Real, a group of community clinics for farm workers. "They're balancing the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable population," one protester told the local newspaper. "There's nowhere else for us to go." High on the list of those receiving IOUs are the blind, aged, and the disabled, who rely on regular grants from the Department of Social Services—a total of $591 million.

The state paid out $41 million in cash July 1 in interest to wealthy bondholders, who by law are first in line to be paid. On July 6, Fitch Ratings downgraded California's General Bond Obligations from A- to BBB.

Schwarzenegger proposes that all recipients of home care for the disabled be fingerprinted and subjected to random home visits by social workers. He issued an executive order in February cutting the state's contribution to the wages of home health-care workers, already only slightly above minimum wage, by two dollars an hour as of July 1.

Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters are joining the protests and have offered demands that can unify all workers in the fight.

Eleanor Garcia, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 32nd district, who is running in a special election to fill the post vacated by Hilda Solis, said, "The ruling rich are leading a war on conquests working people have won over decades of struggle. This is not a budget crisis. Not only do we have to fight for immediate demands that protect our interests as a class, but political power must be taken out of the hands of the tiny capitalist minority by a proletarian revolution."

Wendy Lyons from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

IOWA

Des Moines

Farmers Confront the Capitalist Economic Crisis. Speaker: Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 24, 7:30 p.m. *3707 Douglas. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Cuba and Africa. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, coauthor of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*; Tom Baumann, Young Socialists in United States. Sun., July 26, Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 6 p.m. *3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Cuba and Africa—Solidarity to Africa and Its Struggles for Freedom: Hallmark of the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, coauthor of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*; Tom Baumann, Young Socialists in United States. Fri., July 24, 7 p.m. *7 Mason Ave. Otahuhu, Off Great South Road. Upstairs, above Laundromat. Donation: $5 (includes supper). Tel: 276-8885.*

SWEDEN

Stockholm

The Penetration of Capital and the Resistance of Working People: Report from a Trip to Latvia. Speaker: Dag Tirsén, representative of Communist League. Fri., July 24, 5 p.m. *Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel.: 08-316933.*

Save the date!

Auckland, New Zealand

The Unique Role of Chinese in Cuba
3 events

Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and leader of U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

- At Auckland University. Tues., July 21, 6 p.m. *Lecture Theatre 215, Arts 1 Building, 14A Symonds Street.*
- Botany Library. Wed., July 22, 5:45 p.m. *Level 1, Sunset Terrace (upstairs by Berkeley Cinemas and Whitcoulls). Botany Town Centre, Manukau (Translation in Mandarin available).*
- AUT University, Akoranga campus. Thurs., July 23, 12 p.m. *Building AG, Room AG127. 90 Akoranga Drive, Northcote, North Shore. RSVP Shoba Nayar on or before July 17. Email: shoba.nayar@aut.ac.nz. Tel.: 921-9999 ext. 7304.*

Sydney, Australia

Seminar: The Unique History of the Chinese in Cuba

Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *Our History Is Still Being Written*. Mon., July 27, 1 p.m. *Education Seminar Room 458, Sydney University. Presented by Transnational and Transcultural Research Network and Latin American Studies Network.*

Strike settlement in Britain

Continued from front page

flecting the views of the Socialist Workers Party in the United Kingdom hailed the reactionary the strikes, declaring, "Its time for a total shutdown" and "Spread the strikes." The paper criticized the main slogan of the actions—"British jobs," saying it had been "pushed back but . . . remains a danger."

However, the deal brokered by Total and the unions rests on the very same divisive, reactionary British-first nationalism that fueled the first strikes in January at the Lindsey refinery.

This was repeated again in May when the unions backed unofficial strikes in Wales over the hiring of foreign contract workers. Kenny then stated, "There is widespread anger and outrage at repeated attempts in different projects around the country to exclude local people from job opportunities."

The Socialist Party in the United Kingdom attempted to deny the nationalist character of the strikes, citing media reports that journalists searched in vain to find banners demanding "British jobs for British workers." "Workers at South Hook," the SP said on its Web site, "were not opposed to laggers from Poland getting work on the site as long as local laggers were given the opportunity of the work first under the union agreement." Forty Polish workers were removed from the site by the company.

Worker correspondents for the *Militant* visited the Lindsey site June 23 and spoke with workers there. One of the many British-first placards present summed up the action: "British jobs, on British sites, for British labour," it read. Asked if any steps had been taken to strengthen the working class—native and foreign born—to fight together for jobs, one worker said that the Portuguese and Italians "don't want to know."

Another striker said, "I'm not xenophobic or racist but we should start with the British workers and then top up with European brothers if there is a shortage," adding that the foreign-born workers don't have the right papers or skills for the job.

Alex Xezonakis contributed to this article.

Washington to ship arms to Afghanistan via Russia

BY SETH GALINSKY

On the eve of President Barack Obama's July 6–7 visit to Russia, Moscow announced that it had agreed to let U.S. troops and weapons bound for Afghanistan fly over Russia.

Until now Moscow had restricted use of its territory to shipments by railroad of "nonlethal" supplies, even though it also opposes—for its own reasons—Taliban forces in Afghanistan. The new agreement allows 4,500 U.S. military flights a year.

A July 6 White House statement says the agreement will allow Washington to "further diversify the crucial transportation routes and decrease the amount of time needed" to move troops and equipment.

In a related development, the government of Kyrgyzstan reversed its earlier decision to close the U.S. air base there. Instead, it agreed last month to a one-year lease in exchange for an increase of annual rent to $60 million, from $17 million. The decision caps the current stage in a bidding war between Washington and Moscow to gain bases and influence in Central Asia.

Both decisions help Washington as it escalates the war in Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. U.S. supply routes through Pakistan have been closed on occasion due to attacks by Taliban forces or by Pashtun tribes protesting Pakistani military operations in their territory.

Responding to reports that Moscow might open a second Russian air base in Kyrgyzstan, a senior U.S. diplomat told Voice of America that Washington would not object.

The number of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan combined is approaching the level that it was at the height of the so-called surge in Iraq in 2007. There are currently 177,000 U.S. troops total in both countries, 43,000 of them in Afghanistan.

Nuclear weapons

While Obama was in Russia, he and Russian president Dmitri Medvedev signed an agreement that would ostensibly cut their "strategic" nuclear arsenals by one-quarter.

Together Russia and the United States hold 95 percent of the world's nuclear weapons. Even if the cuts are carried out by the 2016 deadline, Moscow and Washington would still be allowed to keep up to 1,675 nuclear warheads each.

Obama and Medvedev also agreed to resume military contacts suspended after the Russian invasion of Georgia.

In spite of what Obama calls hitting the "reset" button, tensions between the two governments remain as they jockey for position to defend their competing economic and political interests in the region, especially in the countries that make up the former Soviet Union. Washington continues to develop its missile defense system in Poland, in spite of Moscow's objections. And while Moscow suspended the delivery of an air defense system to Iran, it has not agreed to join other U.S.-backed sanctions against the Iranian government.

Obama's July 7 speech at the New Economic School in Moscow was not shown live on any major Russian channel.

U.S. Marine Corps/Sgt. Scott Whittington

U.S. and Afghan troops pick up supplies from an air drop outside Fire Base Fiddler Green in Afghanistan July 5. Recent agreement between Washington and Moscow makes it easier for U.S. imperialist forces to get supplies to war front.

'People's Weekly World' will cease publication

BY DOUG NELSON

The *People's Weekly World*, the newspaper reflecting the views of the Communist Party USA, has announced plans to stop publishing a printed edition effective January 1, 2010.

The dissolution of the newspaper reflects the party's continued evolution away from any pretense of building a revolutionary workers party and toward a radical political association entrenched in U.S. bourgeois politics.

"Because we are a small staff without the big bucks of the corporate media, we will not be able to continue to produce a weekly 12-page newspaper at this time," wrote editor Teresa Albano in a letter to readers.

For the first time in the Communist Party's history its supporters will no longer have a newspaper that espouses the party's views to distribute to workers and youth in the streets, at demonstrations, on campuses, and at workplaces of the real world. Articles will continue to be posted on a daily basis to the *PWW* Web site.

Albano's letter, titled "Change comes to the People's Weekly World: working-class daily launched," was posted to the *PWW* Web site July 2 and printed in the July 11 edition of the paper.

Albano attempts to present the dissolution of a printed paper and the move to an "online daily" as a great step forward. "Can you believe it?" she gushes. "It still seems like a dream to me. This fighting, working-class newspaper is back to daily publishing!"

In the July 18 edition, Albano wrote about readers' response to the move. Most of those she quoted applauded the decision and explained the supposed benefits of the Web site over a printed newspaper.

One loyal reader, however, was not wholly convinced: "While I am thrilled that the *PWW* will soon return to a daily, it is with great sadness that I read that it will no longer appear in print form." The reader suggested a formatted digital digest of three to four pages that could be printed each day "to bring to work."

Albano reminded this reader that the Web site will "provide a weekly downloadable selection of articles, easy to print from your home computer." Maybe—with enough money—Albano says, a daily digital digest could be possible in the "not-too-distant future."

The *People's Weekly World* has been increasingly emphasizing its Web site over the newspaper and has been posting articles and other pieces, such as the entire Fourth of July address by President Barack Obama, that do not appear in print. Leading up to the announcement, the newspaper ran prominent ads encouraging readers to follow PWW.org on the "Twitter" Web site.

True to its class-collaborationist course the *PWW* has given unwavering support to the Obama administration, and increasingly its conduct of the war in Afghanistan and the "war on terror."

In its June 6 issue the paper's labor editor, John Wojcik, praised Ron Adams, mayor of Hardin, Montana, for requesting his town be allowed to hold 100 Guantánamo prisoners in the empty local jail. Wojcik interviewed Adams, who said the move would create jobs and bring federal cops to help police the town.

In response to the right-wing killings of abortion provider Dr. George Tiller and Stephen Johns, a security guard at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., the *PWW* printed an editorial in the June 27 edition, calling on readers to heed the warnings of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on the potential growth of "'home-grown' terrorists." The editorial complained that "law enforcement at all levels has been AWOL in protecting against domestic terrorism."

In the same editorial, the paper responded to a criticism against President Barack Obama by actor Jon Voight at a Republican Party fundraiser. "It is a federal crime to threaten violence against the president," the editorial pointed out.

The following week the *PWW* printed two editorials. One, titled "A welcome move," praised Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, newly appointed head of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, for "coming to grips with the harsh reality that too many civilians were being killed."

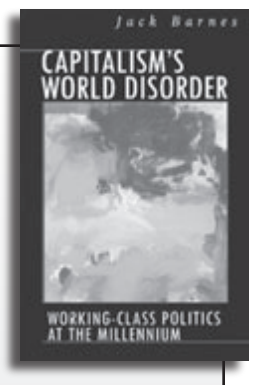
"McChrystal decided to limit air strikes only to prevent American and coalition troops from being 'overrun,'" the paper said. "This change in policy was brought on by the realization that without winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people a long and costly war awaited the American people both in money and lives with certain defeat as the outcome."

It was under the banner of winning hearts and minds that U.S. presidents from John F. Kennedy to Richard Nixon prosecuted a brutal war against the people of Vietnam, napalming villages and assassinating fighters resisting U.S. occupation.

The editorial went on to describe the "indiscriminate killing of innocents" caused by air strikes as "recipe for disaster" and the "policy of air strikes" as "counterproductive." The policy, it said, "should be eliminated. . . . Especially[!] in Pakistan!"

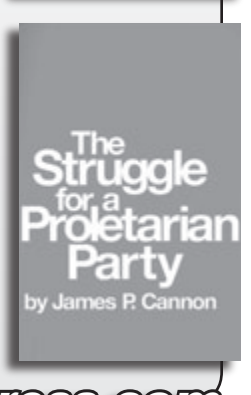
The praise of McCrystal was posted shortly after U.S. aerial drones restarted strikes in Pakistan following a one-month pause, and just two days after two drones unleashed missiles in Pakistan's tribal agency of South Waziristan—one of which targeted a funeral, killing more than 65 people. In the two weeks since the editorial was posted to the *PWW* Web site June 25, U.S. drones launched five air strikes in northwest Pakistan, killing more than 60 people.

Revolutionary books from Pathfinder Press



Capitalism's World Disorder
by Jack Barnes
The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products *not* of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. **—$25**

The First Ten Years of American Communism
by James P. Cannon
"Stalinism has worked mightily to obliterate the honorable record of American communism in its pioneer days. Yet the Communist Party wrote such a chapter too, and the young militants of the new generation ought to know about it. It belongs to them." **—$22**



The Struggle for a Proletarian Party
by James P. Cannon
"The workers of America have power enough to topple the structure of capitalism at home and to lift the whole world with them when they rise." **—$22**

www.pathfinderpress.com

Charges dropped against 4 more in ’71 cop killing

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO—At a court hearing July 6, California state prosecutors dropped charges against four of the San Francisco Eight, former supporters and members of the Black Panther Party who were arrested over two years ago on charges related to the murder of a San Francisco cop in 1971.

Richard Brown, 68, Henry Jones, 73, Ray Boudreaux, 66, and Harold Taylor, 60, were arrested in January 2007 on the pretext that there was new evidence in the case. They were jailed for more than seven months, then released after successfully battling to reduce the exorbitant bail demanded by prosecutors.

Also arrested in January 2007 were Richard O’Neal and Francisco Torres. Charges were dropped against O’Neal last year, but Torres, out on bail since September 2007, still faces charges.

The other two, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim, have been in prison since 1973 and 1978 respectively, serving life sentences on unrelated frame-up charges of killing two New York cops in 1971.

At the July 6 hearing, Muntaqim pleaded “no contest” to a charge of “conspiracy to commit voluntary manslaughter.” He was sentenced to a year in prison, which he has already served, and three years probation.

At an earlier hearing June 29, Bell pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to five years probation. The plea agreements read in court stipulated that Bell and Muntaqim could not be called as witnesses against other defendants in the case.

After Bell and Muntaqim were charged along with the other six in 2007, they were transferred from prison in New York to the San Francisco County jail where they have been ever since.

In New York, where he was held for 35 years, Bell was part of the general prison population where he was allowed to participate in educational programs. At the county jail in San Francisco, he has been in solitary confinement. Bell and Muntaqim will now be returned to the New York prison.

More than 100 supporters of the San Francisco Eight filled the courtroom for the July 6 hearing. They rallied beforehand outside the courthouse with signs saying, “Drop the charges; Free the Eight” and chants of “All of us say, torture no more.”

In an earlier attempt in 1975 to prosecute Taylor and two other men for the 1971 San Francisco killing, a federal court threw out the case after it was revealed that police had used torture, including electric shocks, cattle prods, asphyxiation, and sleep depravation. None of the torturers were ever brought to trial.

Torres, the only remaining defendant, is scheduled to appear in court August 10 where a preliminary hearing date will be set. Charles Bourdon, his attorney, says he plans to file a motion to dismiss the charges against Torres, who maintains his innocence.

Militant/Betsey Stone

Picket line for “San Francisco Eight,” outside federal courthouse in San Francisco June 8. The eight were accused of killing a cop in 1971. Charges were dropped against four more July 6, while one of the eight, Francisco Torres, still faces charges. “No to torture” sign refers to “evidence” presented in 1975 trial that was based on statements extracted through torture.

U.S. gov’t announces new attack on immigrants

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a new attack on undocumented workers, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced July 8 that all businesses with U.S. government contracts above $100,000 will have to use the federal E-verify system. The rules, which take effect September 8, require bosses check the legal status, not only of new hires, but all current employees.

A national “work” ID card is among the proposals being raised by U.S. senator Charles Schumer. Democrats in Congress tapped the senator to draft an “immigration reform” bill.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, said the “modern and effective” rules would be applied to 170,000 contractors who employ 4 million workers. Currently, more than 134,000 U.S. companies voluntarily participate in E-verify, which checks work status in a matter of seconds through the Internet.

At the same time, Napolitano rescinded a 2007 rule that would have sent “no-match” letters to 140,000 businesses. The rule, which would warn the companies to fire 9 million workers accused of using invalid Social Security numbers, has been tied up in court. However, an amendment to a Homeland Security spending bill that would require the letters be sent is making its way through Congress.

Threatening to fine businesses that hire undocumented workers and increase the number of cops on the U.S.-Mexico border was at the center of Barack Obama’s immigration plan during his campaign for president.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has already increased the auditing of I-9 employment forms at hundreds of companies. After an ICE audit of Los Angles–based American Apparel questioned the right to work of many employees, the company agreed to fire up to 1,800 workers if they don’t produce proof they are in the United States legally.

The Obama administration has been driving ahead on increased enforcement of anti-immigrant laws without high-profile immigration raids. Among the measures taken are: sending more cops as part of the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, continued construction of a fence along the border, “accelerating” the deportation of immigrants caught up in U.S. jails, and expansion of “287(g) programs” that give local police the right to act as immigration cops.

Emigration from Mexico for the year ending August 2008 declined 25 percent compared to the previous year, due to rising U.S. unemployment and anti-immigrant crackdowns.

American Apparel factory in Los Angeles

NEW INTERNATIONAL
MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Articles by Jack Barnes in three latest issues:

$16 — issue number 12:
Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun

$14 — issue number 13:
Our Politics Start with the World

$14 — issue number 14:
Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X

Available from PathfinderPress.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

July 27, 1984

In recent weeks the three countries of Indochina—Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea—have come under increased military and political attack from Peking, Washington, and U.S. allies in Southeast Asia.

On July 12, Chinese troops attacked points in Vietnam’s Ha Tuyen province. Chinese troops have also moved right up to the Vietnamese border in other areas.

Peking, which sent 600,000 troops into Vietnam in 1979 in direct collusion with Washington, has escalated tensions along its border with Vietnam since April, when President Reagan visited China.

Chinese troops have also massed along China’s border with Laos.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 27, 1959

The powerful Cuban Workers Confederation has called a one-hour nationwide work stoppage for July 24 to back up Castro and demand his return as premier. The labor confederation chief, David Salvador, urged workers to hold meetings during that work stoppage to hear their leaders stress the importance of Castro’s resumption of office.

The former premier was also informed that the thousands upon thousands of peasants now streaming into Havana by train, bus, truck and foot would stay there until he withdrew his resignation.

This demonstration of unity between the workers and peasants is designed to set the stage for an overwhelming demonstration of loyalty to Castro and his program on the July 26 celebration.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America

July 28, 1934

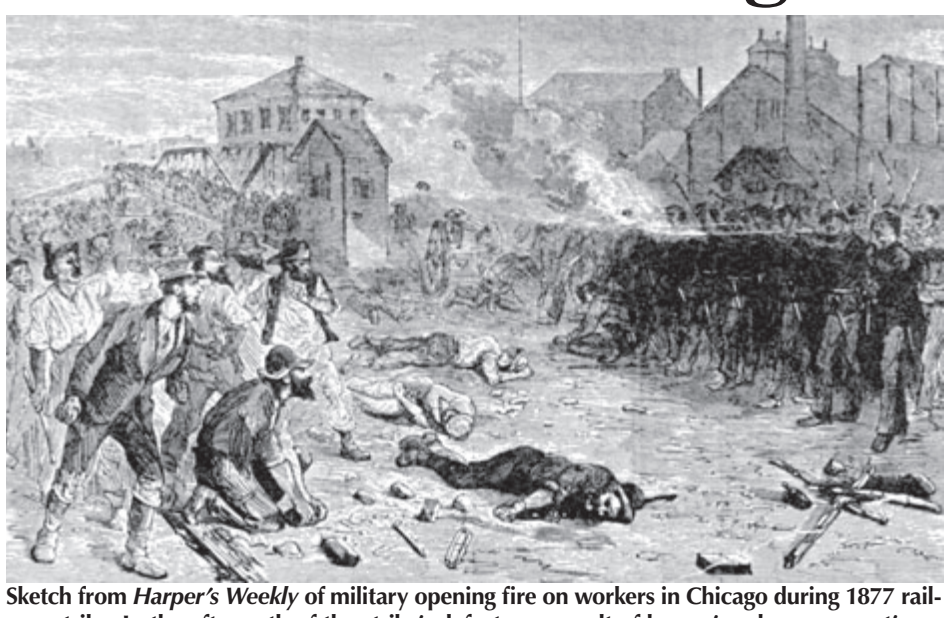
MINNEAPOLIS, July 26—With the declaration of martial law, Minneapolis police began a howling red-scare and arrested Comrade James P. Cannon, editor of the Militant, and Comrade Max Shachtman, editor of the New International today.

The arrest of these leaders of the Communist League of America, in Minneapolis covering the strike situation for the Militant and the New International, took on a sinister aspect when it became known they were held by authorities without charges.

All the earmarks of a frame-up were present in the case in the announcement by police that “they had seized a large quantity of radical literature in a room occupied by one of the men.”

Working-class resistance following 1870s depression

Printed below is an excerpt from Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years, 1848–1917 *by Farrell Dobbs, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. The book traces the historic line of march of the U.S. working class to forge a revolutionary leadership. In 1873 the capitalist economy sank into depression conditions, the worst crisis experienced up to then in the United States. The piece below is from the chapter "Indigenous Origins." It discusses working-class resistance and openings to build the unions and independent labor political action in response to the social unrest during the 1870s depression. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*



Sketch from *Harper's Weekly* of military opening fire on workers in Chicago during 1877 railway strike. In the aftermath of the strike's defeat as a result of bosses' and government's assault, noted Dobbs, new opportunities arose for initiation of working-class political action.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

By the spring of 1877 the cumulative hardships stemming from prolonged economic depression had generated widespread discontent among the exploited masses. So great was the social unrest, in fact, that the first substantial upsurge of class struggle precipitated a general confrontation between labor and capital.

The conflict opened when new wage cuts were imposed by railroad companies. This was one blow too many for the workers involved, who launched spontaneous walkouts on one railway line after another. A few among them belonged to weak craft unions. But in the main they were unorganized and without ready-made means of conducting a strike. Under those circumstances organizational improvisations, including formation of an ad hoc leadership, had to be devised in the heat of battle.

As the walkout gained momentum some of the Lassalleans momentarily put aside their opposition to trade union activity and joined with the Marxists in calling for all-out support of the railroad workers. Cadres of the Workingmen's Party extended help to the strikers in solving their organizational problems. In a couple of cities this led to formal inclusion of socialists, who were not necessarily railroad workers, in strike committees. A substantial contribution was thereby made to what rapidly developed into an effective shutdown of virtually the entire railway system.

Capitalist efforts to crush the walkout became increasingly brutal as it grew in scope. This counterattack took place behind a smokescreen of antilabor propaganda laid down by newspaper editors, church dignitaries, and other "civic leaders." It began with the hiring of strikebreakers at premium pay to run trains. The private railway police assigned to protect the scabs were beefed up and steps were initiated to form antilabor vigilante gangs.

At the same time, all levels of government went into action against the workers. City police and state militias were used to break up picket lines. Strikers were clubbed and jailed. Both official and extralegal armed bodies fired upon workers' gatherings, killing some and wounding many.

Those vicious assaults provoked a widening of the struggle. Large numbers of workers came to the direct aid of the embattled railroad strikers and the walkout was extended to other industries. The high point of the movement was reached in St. Louis, Missouri, where labor solidarity became manifested through a general strike in which socialists functioned as key leaders.

By then the national government had entered the conflict on the side of the bosses. Federal troops used extensively as the main repressive force tipped the scales against labor. The railroad strikers were finally driven back to their jobs in defeat.

Despite the setback received in the immediate struggle, the labor movement had gained new potential. Many workers had become more aware of their common interests as a class. They had also become more perceptive of the solidarity among the employers as a class in opposing them, as well as the antilabor character of the capitalist government. These advances in consciousness gave rise, in the aftermath of the strike defeat, to the initiation of working-class political action. Labor parties arose spontaneously in many cities to run candidates for government office in the 1877 elections.

For those parties to act effectively, the workers' demands as a class had to be generalized in political form. Safeguards were required to maintain rank-and-file control over electoral policy. Care had to be taken, as well, to assure that—in seeking political allies—labor continued to function at all times as an independent class force.

To achieve such objectives the workers needed help from the revolutionary vanguard. But the Workingmen's Party had lost the leadership capacity shown during the brief span when the ranks were somewhat more united than usual in support of the railroad strike. Entirely different courses of action were put forward by the rival formations within the organization, and both failed to meet their obligations to the working class.

As the leaders of the Marxist tendency appraised the new situation, an objective basis did not yet exist for creation of a mass labor party. There was neither a high enough degree of class consciousness among the workers for them to act as a truly independent political force, they contended, nor the trade union strength required to maintain control over a broad electoral formation. Hence, the socialists were confined to two immediate tasks. One of these was through propaganda and education to help the workers acquire political class consciousness from their experiences in industrial conflicts. The other task was to promote the revival of trade union activity in the aftermath of the strike defeat and to press for creation of a labor federation through which the various unions could act in concert. It would be a mistake, they held, for the party to bypass those functions in order to center attention on election campaigns. The socialist movement lacked the broad influence needed to carry weight as an independent political factor on the electoral arena, and activity of that kind would serve to divert its cadres from trade union work.

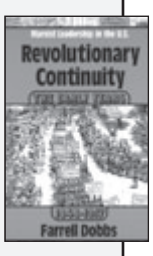
In adopting such an outlook, the leaders of the Marxist tendency left aside the question of what to do about the labor parties that were developing spontaneously.

July BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

Revolutionary Continuity: The Early Years, 1848–1917
by Farrell Dobbs
How successive generations of fighters joined in the struggles that shaped the U.S. labor movement, seeking to build a class-conscious revolutionary leadership.
$20. **Special price: $15**



The Assassination of Malcolm X
by Baxter Smith, George Breitman, Herman Porter
$17. **Special price: $12.50**

The Marxist Theory of Alienation
by Ernest Mandel, George Novack
$11. **Special price: $8**

The Communist League of America, 1932–34
by James P. Cannon
The communist movement's turn toward new openings in the unions as the industrial working class began to recover from the initial blows of the Great Depression.
$28. **Special price: $21**

Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation
by Fred Feldman, Georges Sayad
$7. **Special price: $5**

La classe ouvrière et la transformation de l'éducation
(The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning)
by Jack Barnes
$3. **Special price: $2**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for $10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL JULY 31, 2009

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2826 S. Vermont Ave. #9 Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 737-2191. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf @sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 6777 NW 7th Ave., Suite 5. Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 465 Boulevard SE Suite 201A. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 627-3704. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwestoffice.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: **Manhattan**: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7105 St. Hubert, Suite 106F, H2S 2N1. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: cllc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cledinburgh@talktalk.net

Uighur protests in China

Continued from front page

Journal. More than 1,600 people were wounded.

Police banned "assemblies, marches and demonstrations on public roads and at public places," the *Telegraph* in London reported. Chinese security minister Zhou Yongkang visited the area and called on the cops to "win the tough war of maintaining Xinjiang's stability" and "nip all hidden dangers in the bud."

Uighurs are an oppressed nationality in China and also exist in some Central Asian countries. There are large Uighur concentrations in China's westernmost province, Xinjiang. They speak a Turkic language, written with Arabic script, and are predominately Muslim. Most Uighurs are farmers living in rural areas.

Following the fall of the Qing dynasty in China in 1911, there were several attempts to form independent Uighur republics. Uighurs fought for independence and in 1933–34 an Islamic Republic of East Turkistan existed. In 1944 Uighurs favoring independence, backed by the Soviet Union, established the Second East Turkistan Republic.

After the 1949 Chinese revolution, the Chinese Communist Party came to power and Beijing declared Xinjiang a Chinese province. It was later classified as an "autonomous region" in 1955. Although the Chinese constitution identifies Uighurs as an official ethnic group whose language and religious rights are protected, discrimination against Uighurs by employers, the government, cops, and the courts has persisted.

Uighur students began organizing in the 1980s as part of the rising struggles among youth in China for democratic rights and against corruption. In the 1990s small groups of Uighurs, including some favoring secession, carried out armed attacks on Chinese government targets.

The Beijing bureaucrats initially labeled Uighurs who oppose their policies "splitists," although not all favored independence. Today dissidents are more likely to be branded "terrorists," based on alleged ties between a Uighur organization called the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and al-Qaeda.

In the 1990s Beijing went on a major campaign to develop the resources of Xinjiang Province**,** which contains a third of the country's oil and natural gas and 40 percent of its coal. This was part of the deepening evolution of the Stalinist regime's course, from bureaucratic state ownership and planning, and forced collectivization, toward promoting privately owned capitalist enterprises and foreign investment.

Han Chinese 'go west'

In Xinjiang Province a highway and a railroad were built and millions of Han Chinese, including many workers and peasants, were encouraged to "go west" to seek their fortunes. The Han migration became so large that today, according to official figures, Xinjiang Province is 40 percent Han, who enjoy the best jobs. Hans were 7 percent of the province in 1949.

Over the last two decades the explosion of economic activity in the region has increased the average income 20-fold, a "Frontline" documentary reported. But as in the rest of China, inequalities have widened, particularly between the cities and the countryside. Most Uighurs have not shared in the prosperity, which is centered in the urban areas. Reuters reports that the average annual "disposable income" in 2008 in Urumqi was $1,800, but in the rural parts of the province it was about one-third of that figure.

One exception to this trend is Rebiya Kadeer, a Uighur based in Washington, D.C., who heads the World Uighur Congress and Uighur American Association, which are funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

Kadeer profited handsomely from the capitalist expansion in Xinjiang Province in the 1990s as a department store magnate. She told the *Journal* she became China's wealthiest woman and developed close ties with the ruling bureaucracy. But she began to lose favor in 1997 when she publicly spoke out against anti-Uighur discrimination. She was imprisoned in 1999 and later exiled after she attempted to meet with a U.S. delegation on a trip to Urumqi.

Relatives of Uighurs arrested by Chinese police demonstrate in Urumqi, in Chinese province of Xinjiang, July 7. National oppression of Uighurs by Han-dominated Stalinist government is at root of current conflicts that have taken 184 lives so far.

For Uighurs trying to make a living on the land or in the energy industry, the situation is far different. The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a semi-military agricultural and construction conglomerate in Xinjiang, employs 2.2 million workers, but only a tiny minority of them are Uighurs, according to the *Telegraph*.

A BBC reporter visited the Tazhong oil refinery in the Taklakan desert in Xinjiang. "At exercise time," wrote Louisa Lim, "all the faces are Han Chinese."

Beijing restricts teaching in the Uighur language. A state worker in the city of Korla told the *Christian Science Monitor* that from second grade on basic courses like math are taught in Mandarin Chinese only. In 2002 the main university in Xinjiang stopped teaching the Uighur language altogether.

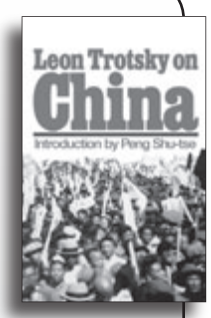
Uighurs also suffer persecution of their religion. "There is no religious freedom here," a cotton farmer told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Religious activities outside the official framework," he explained, are equated with "terrorism and separatism."

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that government employees are not allowed to practice Islam and Muslim imams cannot teach religion in private. There have been instances of police forcing women to take off their veil and male government employees are made to shave their beards. Young men under the age of 18 are prohibited from praying in mosques.

Map of China and surrounding countries. Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region shaded light.

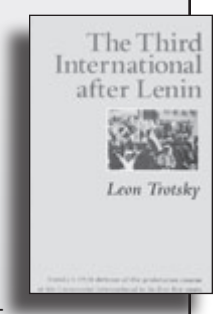
For further reading...

Leon Trotsky on China
by Leon Trotsky



Articles and letters on the Chinese revolution of the 1920s, recording the fight to reverse Stalin's disastrous course of subordinating the Communist Party there to an alliance with the capitalist Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). **$35**

The Third International After Lenin
by Leon Trotsky



Written in 1928, this is Trotsky's alternative to Stalin's course toward gutting the revolutionary program of the Communist International.

"An international communist program is in no case the sum total of national programs or an amalgam of their common features," Trotsky wrote. "In the present epoch, to a much larger extent than in the past, the national orientation of the proletariat must and can flow only from a world orientation and not vice versa." **$25**

Available online or at distributors listed on page 6.

www.pathfinderpress.com

New evidence surfaces in killing by Canadian cops

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN AND STEVE PENNER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—New evidence pointing to a cover-up in the cop killing of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver airport forced Judge Thomas Braidwood June 19 to postpone the conclusion of the inquiry into his death until the fall. The inquiry will resume September 22.

It's likely that four Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers, who confronted Dziekanski and shocked him with a Taser five times on Oct. 14, 2007, will be recalled to answer an RCMP supervisor's e-mail contradicting their testimony at the inquiry. The e-mail, released just as the Braidwood inquiry was about to conclude, showed that the four cops had planned to Taser Dziekanski before they arrived at the airport.

The cops testified at the inquiry that they had no discussion about Tasering Dziekanski before confronting him at the airport. Their testimony contradicted eyewitness Paul Pritchard, who reported overhearing cops say, "Can I or should I Taser him?" before they even got to Dziekanski.

Pritchard's video of the cops killing Dziekanski, which police initially seized and tried to suppress, showed that Dziekanski was shot several times by 50,000-volt Tasers, and then jumped on by three RCMP officers. It shows that the cops held him face down with their knees on his chest and neck until he stopped breathing, and that contrary to the cops' testimony, he did nothing to threaten the police before they attacked him.

The e-mail sent by RCMP chief superintendent Dick Bent to Assistant Commissioner Al McIntyre outlines the RCMP's plan for damage control to counter Pritchard's video.

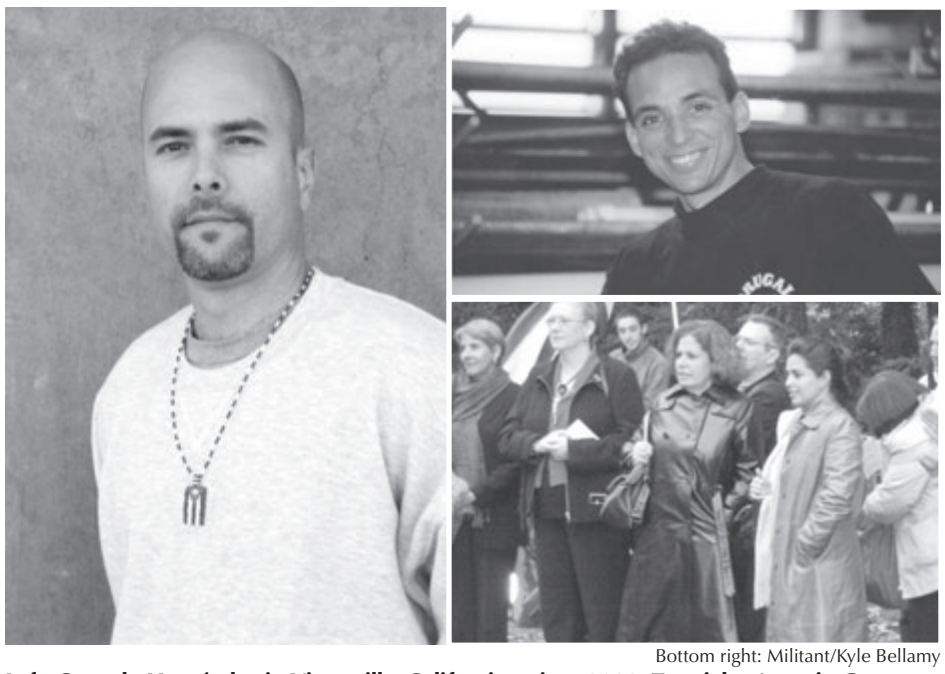
In a recent ruling, a British Columbia Supreme Court judge June 15 upheld the right of the Dziekanski inquiry to find misconduct on part of the "federal officers." Lawyers for the cops are appealing this decision.

Should Judge Braidwood find misconduct on the part of the four cops for "excessive use of force" it would put further pressure on the British Columbia provincial government to reverse its previous decision not to prosecute the cops for killing Dziekanski, despite the growing public outcry.

Protests against his killing were organized in several cities across Canada at the time, including a demonstration of more than 1,000 in Vancouver.

‘Cuba has the right to choose its destiny’

Says Cuban revolutionary in U.S. prison



Bottom right: Militant/Kyle Bellamy

Left, Gerardo Hernández in Victorville, California, prison 2008. Top right, Antonio Guerrero. Hernández and Guerrero are two of five Cuban revolutionaries who have been imprisoned in United States on frame-up charges for more than 10 years. Bottom right, Olga Salanueva (with purse), wife of René González, and Adriana Pérez (on right), wife of Gerardo Hernández, at October 2008 protest in Scotland to demand freedom for the Cuban Five.

The following is the fifth and final installment of an interview with Gerardo Hernández, one of the five Cuban revolutionaries who have been held in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges for more than 10 years. Saul Landau, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., who is making a documentary on the case, conducted the April 1 phone interview.

Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González were arrested by FBI agents on Sept. 12, 1998. They had been gathering information on counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups that, with Washington’s complicity, operate from south Florida and have a history of violent attacks on Cuba.

The Cuban Five, as they are known, were convicted in a federal court in Miami in June 2001 on false charges that included “conspiracy to commit espionage” and failing to register as agents of a foreign government. They were given sentences ranging from 15 years to life in prison. Hernández, who was also falsely accused of “conspiracy to commit murder,” was sentenced to two life terms plus 15 years. He is locked up in the federal penitentiary in Victorville, California.

The English translation has been checked against the original Spanish and revised by the *Militant.* Footnotes are by the *Militant.*

❖

Saul Landau: Did you talk to the prosecutors?

Gerardo Hernández: No. Everything goes through our lawyers. Initially I talked with the lawyer. He raised the possibility of cooperating with the investigation, cooperating with the government. I don’t know if he was presenting the district attorney’s idea or not. I told him that if he wanted to continue being my attorney we should not discuss that question ever again. And he never talked to me about it again. Although later there were the so-called plea agreements that were offered to get us to plead guilty and cooperate. We rejected all of this. But we never had direct contact with the prosecution.

Landau: Did it ever occur to you to become a traitor to escape the nightmare you’ve described?

Hernández: Look, we’ve been in prison more than 10 years. A lot of people who know about this case say to me, “Cuba must have paid you lots of money to do this!” I always laugh and say, “If I had done what I did for money, I wouldn’t be here.” Because when you work for money, you work for the highest bidder. And Cuba could never possibly pay what this country can pay. If I had accepted their offer, I would have saved myself 10 years behind bars without seeing my wife. A lot of people don’t understand this, people brought up to think money is everything in life.

No, betraying never crossed my mind. It’s so obvious that it’s difficult for me to explain. It would mean not only betraying myself as a person, as a revolutionary, but betraying a whole country, my family. It would mean betraying all the Cubans who in the course of 100-something years of revolution, since 1868,[1] have given their lives so Cuba could be free, independent, and sovereign. I was clear from the start: what I was doing was not wrong. I’m sorry I had to break some laws, but it was for a greater good and absolutely necessary. So I have nothing to regret.

Landau: One accusation against you: conspiring to commit espionage. What evidence did the U.S. government have against you?

Hernández: None. They accuse me of supervising others who were involved in that. Take Antonio [Guerrero], for example. Antonio went to an office in Key West, where he lived, to look for a job.

A woman in the office offered him a plumber’s job at the Key West naval base. And he accepted. He didn’t seek that job. She offered it to him. We brought that worker from the employment agency to the trial. She testified that she had to insist that he take that job. Once he started working there, we informed Cuba. Cuba said, “We know that prior to a U.S. invasion of another country there may be an increase in resources being deployed at that base.” For example, “Normally at that base there might be, say, 12 planes. If one day you see 25 planes, let us know because something unusual is going on.”

It was purely a defensive measure. Cuba wanted to know about any unusual movements there. Remember, this is the base closest to Miami, where these people have so much influence.[2] And their dream is that the U.S. army will wipe out all revolutionaries in Cuba so they can return. So, Cuba has always had this concern.

Occasionally Antonio would say, “The situation at the base is not normal; there are this many planes, this many left, and this many returned.” That is obviously military information. But according to U.S. laws, it’s not espionage. Anyone driving along Route 1 can see how many airplanes there are. That’s public information. There are extensive legal precedents in this country that say it’s not espionage.

The prosecution said, “You’re right, that’s not espionage. It’s conspiracy to commit espionage.” Because some day Antonio would want to get clearance, would want another position with access to secret information. Throughout those years [1993–98, when Guerrero worked at the base] that never happened. But they speculate that it could have happened. So they twisted that charge and convicted him. It’s possibly the only case in the United States of someone being found guilty of conspiracy to commit espionage in which no secret information was involved.

Landau: What about the idea that you knew Brothers to the Rescue would be flying on that day?[3] Did you know the Cuban Air Force planned to attack them, and to attack them over international waters?

Hernández: That’s the other charge. At first, if you asked the prosecution, “What involvement did he have in making that happen?” they would say, “He sent them the flight plans.” Later it was proved that I didn’t send the flight plans. The Federal Aviation Administration sent the flight plans. But besides that, what flight plan? Basulto had given a press conference announcing they would be flying on February 24.

Even our own lawyers have mistakenly said, “When you sent them information regarding the flight.” No, none of that. There is absolutely no evidence that I sent information concerning that flight. They said that out of carelessness; and even if there were evidence, it would be irrelevant. But there was no evidence. The crazy prosecution theory is that not only did I know Cuba was going to shoot down the planes—which of course I did not know—but I knew they were going to do so over international waters. That Cuba was conspiring, not just to shoot down these planes in Cuban air space, but over international waters. That’s the most absurd idea that anyone could ever invent. But the trial was held in Miami, and no matter what I was charged with there, they were going to find me guilty.

Landau: Who in Cuba controls that kind of attack, MiG pilots or people on the ground?

Hernández: I suppose it would be Cuban anti-air defense together with the Armed Forces Ministry, which includes ground radar and the air force. My understanding is Fidel Castro, and Raúl if I remember correctly, explained in detail on Cuban television how the orders were given. I don’t have many details about that because it happened while I was here. I assume the radar system, air force, and high command worked together like a well-oiled machine.

Landau: With President Obama’s election, do you anticipate positive steps toward Cuba and your case?

Hernández: Yes. Obama, during his campaign, had the courage to say he’d be willing to talk with Cuba without preconditions. In Miami in previous times, that was practically political suicide. Anyone doing that could for-

Continued on page 10

1. Cuba’s first war of independence against Spanish colonial rule was launched in 1868.

2. A reference to rightist Cuban American groups in Miami.

3. On Feb. 4, 1996, Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces shot down two planes flown by members of Brothers to the Rescue, a U.S.-based counterrevolutionary group, after they provocatively entered Cuban airspace. The group, headed by José Basulto, had repeatedly violated Cuban airspace over the previous two years and ignored warnings to cease their hostile actions. The U.S. government charged Hernández with conspiracy to commit murder, claiming he bore responsibility for the Cuban government’s action in shooting down the planes.

Recommended Reading

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland. $10

United States vs. The Cuban Five: A Judicial Cover-up

by Rodolfo Dávalos Fernández

Cuban jurist Dávalos Fernández reviews every aspect of the U.S. government’s prosecution of the five men in the light of U.S. and international law, legal tradition, and procedures. $22

Available from distributors (see page 6) or from www.pathfinderpress.com — complete catalog online

‘Political party that’s not afraid to tell workers truth can grow in period ahead’

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK—A revolutionary political party that’s not afraid to tell workers the truth about what the capitalist economic depression holds in store for them can grow in the coming period, said Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. This is the opportunity before the New York SWP election campaign, he told a July 11 rally here of 170 campaign supporters.

Barnes chaired the evening rally. During the day many in the audience had petitioned in working-class neighborhoods all over the city to get the SWP ticket on the ballot. The party is running Dan Fein for mayor, Maura DeLuca for public advocate, and Tom Baumann for Manhattan borough president. Fein and DeLuca are union sewing-machine operators. Baumann is a student at Hunter College.

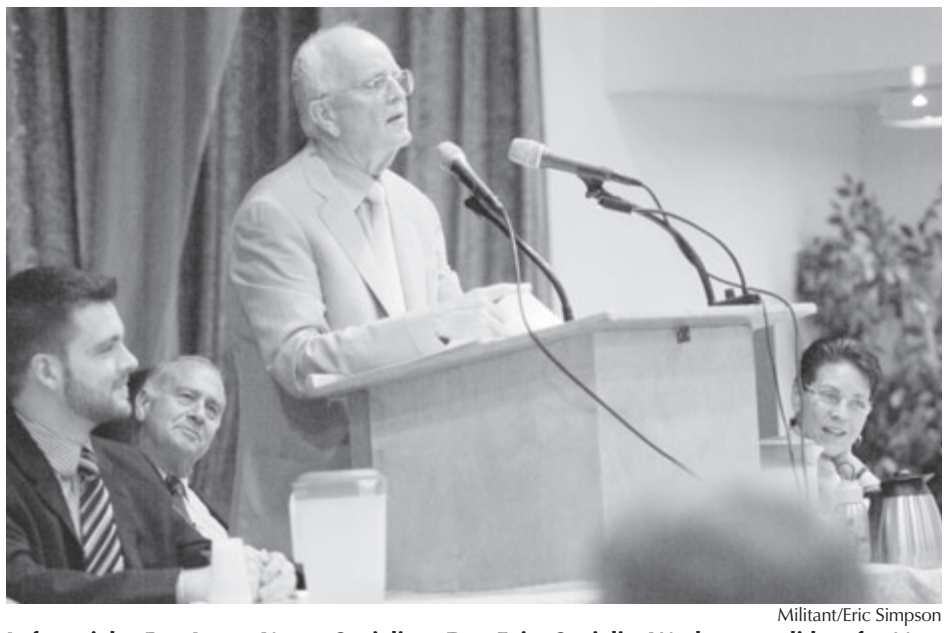
The current depression is unique, Barnes said, in that it draws all the semicolonial countries, as well as the more advanced capitalist countries, into its financial and economic turbulence. In order to raise its falling rate of profit the capitalist class on a world scale has only one solution: to radically restructure the working class’s standard of living.

“In order to raise their falling rate of profit, the capitalist class has only one solution: to radically restructure the working class’s standard of living . . .”

The socialist candidates explain there will be more wars along with the rise of radical organizations that are anti-working-class.

Barnes took up the “normalization” of the Obama administration—that is, the rapidity with which the White House is becoming indistinguishable from most of the policies of the previous presidential administrations. This is particularly evident in the speed with which Obama is accelerating the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while more than 100,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq.

A July 10 Gallup poll found that a big majority—82 percent of those surveyed—express confidence in the U.S. military. Obama is working to increase that support, Barnes said. For a few years now the U.S. rulers have used affirmative action to bring many more Blacks and Latinos into the officer corps, a step the capitalist rulers know will be necessary to create the type of army that can meet the working-class resistance that is coming.



Militant/Eric Simpson

Left to right, Ben Joyce, Young Socialists; Dan Fein, Socialist Workers candidate for New York mayor; Jack Barnes, SWP National Secretary; and Mary-Alice Waters, SWP national committee member and editor of *New International* magazine.

Barnes pointed to the example of the Navy, which has traditionally been among the most segregated branches of the military. The class of 2013 just entered the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Thirty-five percent of the class is Black, Latino, or Asian, almost twice the percentage 10 years ago. Most of the change has come in the last two years.

Affirmative action debate intensifies

The debate over affirmative action is intensifying, Barnes said. Rightist forces are up in arms. Patrick Buchanan wrote a column July 7 called “Dumbing-down the U.S. Navy.” He blasted the Navy affirmative action program, calling it “a national disgrace” and “systematic race discrimination . . . against hundreds of white kids.”

As the imperialist war drive deepens, Stalinist, social democratic, and anarchist forces are rudderless, Barnes said. He pointed to an editorial in the June 25 *People’s Weekly World*, which reflects the views of the U.S. Communist Party. The piece praised Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal for saying he would reduce the number of drone missile attacks in Afghanistan. Less than a week later, the *World*’s editor announced that the print edition of the paper will cease publishing Jan. 1, 2010, another step toward the liquidation of the Stalinist party (see article on page 4).

More clashes like those between the oppressed Uighurs and the dominant Han Chinese in western China will be another feature of world politics in the coming period, said Barnes. He noted that the Soviet Union ultimately broke up along ethnic fault lines. Such explosions over national oppression frequently occur when class differentiation is on the rise and unemployment sharply increases.

The sharp economic contraction is also leading to a decrease in immigration to the United States, after a giant increase, Barnes went on to say. This has been a feature of previous depressions. The Obama administration, with Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, taking the lead, is now preparing an “immigration reform” that will further stiffen attacks on immigrant rights.

“The absence of stability will help convince the most class-conscious workers that they must take power out of the hands of the capitalists . . .”

The socialist candidates call for immediate, unconditional legalization of all undocumented workers and an end to raids and deportations, Barnes said. They also speak out against the antiwoman barrage in the liberal media against former Republican Party vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. Barnes likened the unrelenting campaign to portray Palin as psychologically unstable and ignorant to the drive by rightists during the 1990s to vilify Hillary Clinton.

The alternating of ups and downs in the world capitalist economy and the accompanying insecurity in the coming years will lead to radicalization, Barnes concluded. The absence of stability will help convince the most class-conscious workers that they must take power out of the hands of the propertied minority.

Martín Koppel, chairperson of the New York 2009 Socialist Workers Campaign, spoke next, explaining that the SWP candidates are the only ones in the race saying that workers and farmers need to organize a proletarian revolution to take political power from the capitalist class and reorganize the economy and all social relations in the interests of the toiling majority.

Tribute to party leader Tom Leonard

The meeting also paid tribute to SWP leader Tom Leonard, who died in June. Leonard grew up during the 1930s depression and witnessed the devastation it brought but also the working-class solidarity that arose in response. (An article reviewing Leonard’s 58 years in the party and his contributions to the communist movement will appear next week.)

Longtime SWP National Committee member Norton Sandler, the executive committee organizer of the New York Headquarters branch of the SWP, described Leonard’s role in big class battles in Houston during the nearly three decades he was active there. This included defense against Ku Klux Klan attacks in 1971, the fight to win the right to vote on contracts in the United Steelworkers union in the mid-1970s, and collaboration with locked-out unionists at the Crown Central Petroleum refinery in the mid-1990s.

Mary-Alice Waters, also a longtime member of the SWP National Committee, spoke on the Maritime Project, a party effort to bring together the political experiences of cadres who worked together as an SWP fraction in the maritime industry in the 1940s and 1950s, carrying out systematic communist political work.

Leonard took substantial responsibility for this project and spoke widely in the United States, New Zealand, and Australia on the lessons of this chapter in party history. Waters explained that his talks made the maritime fraction “come alive” for younger members of the communist movement, but he always presented his experiences in the framework of the leadership challenges in the labor movement today.

Militant volunteer Ben Joyce spoke about Leonard on behalf of the Young Socialists. He said Leonard was a “footloose rebel” and “a soldier dedicated to the victory of the proletariat.”

Some $6,195 was raised to further the party’s work.

Militant/Robin Mace

July 11 New York meeting organized by Socialist Workers campaign and Young Socialists

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

Revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable. They will be initiated not by the toilers, but will be forced upon us by the crisis-driven assaults by the propertied classes on our conditions of life and labor. In growing solidarity and the emergence of a fighting vanguard of working people, the outlines of these coming class battles can be seen. **—$7**

www.pathfinderpress.com

London rally: 'British troops out of Afghanistan!'

Militant/Alex Xezonakis

LONDON, July 13—One hundred and fifty people protested outside Downing Street today demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan. The demonstration was called by the Stop the War Coalition in response to the new offensive by imperialist troops in Helmand Province. As of today, 15 British troops have been killed in Afghanistan in July alone. The overall total of 184 dead now surpasses the number of British troops killed in Iraq. British prime minister Gordon Brown warned that people should be braced for more losses, reported the *Telegraph*.

—ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

Music in English played 1st time at Quebecois day

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

MONTREAL—English-language singers performed for the first time this year at Quebec national day celebrations. Seas of Quebec flags could be seen everywhere at events held June 24. Quebecois are an oppressed nationality in Canada that suffer discrimination based on their language—French. English singers had never performed at the celebrations since they began 175 years ago.

Most Quebecois learned about the participation of the Lake of Stew, a folk group, and Bloodshot Bill, a rock singer, both of which perform in English, when event organizers announced that they had decided to exclude them from the show. They insisted that Quebec national day must be celebrated in French.

The artists were reinstalled the following day after a general outcry in Quebec. They performed as scheduled without much incident. A small group of Quebecois nationalists tried unsuccessfully to disrupt the performances.

"If English artists want to celebrate with us on our national day, we should welcome them," said Guy Lepage, who emceed the main event. The June 24 celebration was attended by some 250,000 people in Montreal, where Lepage spoke a few words in English.

Privileged Quebecois use more and more the "defense of French" in and of itself as a tool of self-promotion and defense of their social privileges.

Quebecois workers, on the other hand, are more and more concerned with the combined social impact of national oppression and the economic crisis reflected in their lower standard of living, and lower quality of health care and education. As the crisis deepens they tend more and more to unite with other workers, whatever country they come from, whatever language they speak. Each year more and more immigrants participate in the celebrations.

That's what lies behind the opening to English artists this year.

New York socialists' campaign victory

Continued from front page

dent at Hunter College.

What's most attractive about the SWP campaign is that it points to "political action in the streets by working people," commented Gordon Barnes, 20, a member of the Young Socialists, who participated in campaign petitioning teams for several days.

The party platform points to the need for the working class to take political power in response to the deepening worldwide capitalist depression, social crisis, and imperialist wars. The Socialist Workers campaign puts forward a series of immediate demands to protect working people in face of the devastation the ruling class is organizing and to unify the working class in struggle.

These demands include: guaranteed unemployment compensation at union scale for all workers until they find a job; an increase in the federal minimum wage to union scale; no cuts in medical benefits for any workers laid off from their job—guaranteed lifetime medical care and retiree pensions for all; immediate and unconditional legalization of all undocumented workers.

A soapboxing speech by Fein July 12 at the Fulton and Nostrand street corner in Brooklyn won new support for the campaign. "I was explaining the campaign's demands for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and that the minimum wage be raised to union scale," said Fein. "One woman signed the petition and then stayed around urging others, 'come over and sign, this is important.'"

Bachi Ayala, 20, a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College and YS member, said petitioning for the Socialist Workers candidates was a "good experience for meeting a lot of working people" and seeing their response to the campaign.

"Petitioning was a positive experience, much better than I expected," said Asha Ramachandra, 26. At Hunter College, where for each of two days she collected more than 100 signatures, a lot of students knew about the campaign, she said.

Several workers stopped in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn as Fein condemned a rent increase approved by the city Rent Guidelines Board in June.

"We need to nationalize the land and housing stock," Fein said. "This is the only way to guarantee working people inexpensive, attractive, and quality housing without fear of evictions by a landlord or foreclosure by a bank." Fein added that this measure would prevent working farmers from being foreclosed on and losing their land.

Militant/Alex Johns

Dan Fein soapboxing in Brooklyn, New York, July 12.

'Cuba has the right to choose its destiny'

Continued from page 8

get about the Cuban vote in Florida. But he said it, and I think everything U.S. politicians say is calculated. He knew the risks that were involved. He won without getting a majority of the Cuban vote. He owes them nothing. He's an intelligent person and knows that 50 years of that erroneous policy toward Cuba has led nowhere. So I hope, and without many expectations or false illusions, he will take more reasonable, rational measures toward Cuba. This country is moving toward a more respectful relationship with Cuba, for the good of both countries.

In my case, I don't expect anything. My position has always been: expect the worst, and if something better happens, it would be very welcome. In our situation—that of the Five—one can't live on false hopes and illusions. I face two life sentences and I'm prepared for that. If something should change, I'd welcome it, but I can't keep a balance sheet or get my hopes up. Psychologically, you must be prepared for what will happen, not live on dreams.

Landau: How do you survive each day?

Hernández: I spend most of the day reading and writing. I have an enormous and pleasant tragedy regarding correspondence. Some days I get 60, 80 letters. The record is 119. You can imagine how difficult it is not just to read them, but to answer all those letters. The days pass by incredibly fast. That helps to keep my mind distracted. I try to read everything that is published about Cuba, to keep myself current on my area of expertise, international relations. Sometimes people here ask me, "How can you read all the time?" I enjoy it. Unfortunately, I cannot answer all the letters. Some people even get annoyed. But it's impossible because there are so many letters and not enough time.

Landau: Do you have a message for Washington?

Hernández: If I could, I'd say, "All we are guilty of is doing the same thing that some American patriots are doing right now, those in the mountains of Tora Bora searching for information about Al Qaeda, so that the acts committed on 9/11 are not repeated."

I'm sure those people are seen here as patriots. That's exactly what we were doing here: collecting information in Florida to prevent terrorist acts in Cuba. Terrorism against Cuba is not an abstraction. Those who have died because of those acts have first and last names, acts planned with impunity here on U.S. soil. Our only crime was to do the same thing being done today by young Americans who will receive medals for it. So it's totally contradictory: a country waging a war against terrorism harbors terrorists and protects those who put bombs on planes that killed dozens of people—and who boast of doing so.[4]

I'd also like the United States to understand that Cuba is a free and sovereign country. It has the right to choose its own path, to build its own destiny, its own system. Like it or not, we Cubans are the ones to decide what we will fix, what we will change, what to do differently, and how we want to build our society. If we had the necessary peace to build our social system the way we have always dreamt, things would be different today. We would have advanced much more. Unfortunately, we haven't had the peace to be able to do that.

I hope the day will come when the United States will understand that this small island, 90 miles away, has the right to choose its own destiny. I think that day will come. And the day will come when the American and Cuban peoples will feel much more closely tied together, based on mutual respect.

---

4. A reference to Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch, and others. Posada Carriles was convicted by a Venezuelan court in the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados that killed all 73 people aboard. Bosch was also implicated in the attack. In a 1998 *New York Times* interview, Posada Carriles bragged of his involvement in a series of bombings of Havana hotels in 1997, including one that killed an Italian tourist, Fabio di Celmo. He later retracted his account, claiming his understanding of English was not good. Today both Posada Carriles and Bosch walk freely in the streets of Miami.

EDITORIAL

U.S. hands off Honduras!

Washington is organizing to put together a stable regime in Honduras that will continue to protect its imperialist interests. That is what's behind the U.S.-orchestrated talks with supporters of deposed president Manuel Zelaya and of Roberto Micheletti, installed by the Honduran congress.

Working people should demand the U.S. government keep its hands off Honduras. Only the people of that Central American nation can determine their government and their future.

We must also oppose all attacks on political rights by the Honduran ruling class and its government, including curfews, curbs on the media, and police and army repression.

This does not mean supporting Zelaya or any other capitalist politician. The interests of Honduran workers and farmers do not lie in whether Zelaya returns to the presidency. They lie in defending their political space to discuss, organize, and chart a road forward.

Honduras has long been ruled by the Liberal and National parties, and Zelaya's record is in line with Liberal policies, from a police "anticrime" campaign to raising the minimum wage to still-poverty levels. Zelaya was removed in a conflict among capitalists, including within his own party, over a reelection referendum.

There is nothing progressive about "plebiscitary democracy" such as Zelaya's proposed referendum. Such demagogic politics historically has served to keep working people as passive spectators dependent on capitalist "saviors."

The false claim by middle-class radicals that Zelaya's ouster was a "right-wing" coup "made in USA" is designed to convince working people to back a bourgeois politician. While displeased with his ties to Caracas, the U.S. imperialist rulers were not threatened by Zelaya's rule. Their main concern now is restoring a stable regime.

Honduras is very different from Venezuela, which has been marked by sharp class confrontations over workers and peasants fighting for land, improved living standards, and social rights. Pro-imperialist coup attempts against President Hugo Chávez—targeting these mass struggles—were defeated by mobilizations of hundreds of thousands of working people.

The Zelaya government joined a Venezuelan-led trade alliance, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), set up as an alternative to U.S.-led trade pacts. The governments of Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Bolivia, and similar countries have followed this and other policies to protect their national bourgeoisies and deflect efforts by workers and farmers to act in their own interests.

Working people are correct in opposing imperialist trade pacts such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas that open up semicolonial countries to freer imperialist exploitation. But no alternative trade pact can stop the imperialist drive to export capital, conquer markets and territories, and wage wars of plunder.

Some supporters of Zelaya on the U.S. left argue that electing capitalist politicians critical of Washington—from Argentina to El Salvador—offers a "realistic," "third road" between capitalism and communism.

There is no such third road. The only way to end imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation is the path taken by workers and farmers in Cuba, who took power and expropriated the capitalist class, opening the socialist revolution in the Americas. That course is a living example for working people everywhere, from Honduras to the United States.

U.S. gov't seeks 'stability' in Honduras

Continued from front page

tagonized others in the ruling class, however, by associating himself with Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez.

The Honduran government joined a Venezuelan-led trade alliance based largely on buying discounted Venezuelan oil. Zelaya issued tirades against "the elite" and called the plebiscite—modeled on a referendum in Venezuela—but without the mobilized mass base the Chávez government has leaned on to carry out its policies.

Since his ouster supporters and opponents of restoring Zelaya have held almost daily demonstrations. The new government initially decreed an 11:00 p.m.-4:30 a.m. curfew and shut down pro-Zelaya radio stations.

Washington's role

While Zelaya was in office the U.S. government, despite its displeasure with his close ties to Caracas, maintained normal relations with his administration. State Department officials have acknowledged that, as a showdown approached, Washington held discussions with the Honduran military and other officials to try to maintain a stable government and keep U.S. imperialist interests intact. Zelaya was ousted June 28.

On July 9 Micheletti and Zelaya met separately with Arias in San José, Costa Rica's capital.

Zelaya says he is "willing to accept a compromise that would return him to office with significantly limited powers," the *New York Times* reported July 13.

Micheletti insists Zelaya cannot return to office, but has suggested an amnesty for the ousted president, whom he previously threatened with prosecution.

The U.S. government has cut $16.5 million in military aid to Tegucigalpa and has threatened to cut $180 million in economic aid. Several hundred U.S. troops remain stationed at the Soto Cano air base.

On July 12 the Micheletti regime lifted an evening curfew. Pro-Zelaya radio stations have resumed coverage, although they still report some government interference.

Micheletti's backers filled the capital's baseball stadium July 11 in a massive "prayer for peace" backed by the Catholic Church hierarchy and evangelical groups, according to Agence France-Presse.

Zelaya supporters renewed their blockades of roads and bridges. They marched to the airport to protest the fatal shooting there of a youth by soldiers July 5.

A strike by the teachers union demanding Zelaya's reinstatement weakened July 13 with the return to work by 38,000 teachers. Another 20,000 teachers remain off the job.

Cuba withdraws volunteer teachers

The Cuban government announced July 9 it was withdrawing its 143 volunteer literacy teachers from Honduras because of false accusations by government officials that encouraged violence against them.

The Cuban embassy reported that Enrique Ortez, then Honduran foreign minister, cited military officials claiming the Cuban volunteers were involved in "indoctrination" and in organizing paramilitary groups. A statement by the embassy rejected "these slanders whose only purpose seems to be to encourage hostile and violent actions" against the Cubans. It noted that the teachers were assisting a government literacy program based on a Cuban educational method that has benefited 150,000 Hondurans.

Cuba said its health-care volunteers will remain in Honduras, where they have served in remote rural areas since 1998, when Central America was devastated by Hurricane Mitch. A total of nearly 500 Cuban volunteers, most of them medical, have been working in Honduras.

The Cuban literacy volunteers vowed to return to Honduras as soon as conditions allow, according to Cuban press reports.

Health care

Continued from front page

priorities this year.

The bills being circulated in the Senate and House of Representatives would make it mandatory for people to buy health insurance—either from private companies or from a government-sponsored plan. There would be stiff fines and penalties for those who don't sign up. None of the proposals would provide coverage for undocumented workers.

A Senate bill would impose fines of more than $1,000 for individuals not having health insurance, and even higher amounts for families.

Workers who do buy insurance would face not only premiums but large copayments and deductibles. An "essential benefits package" that includes hospitalization and doctor visits under a "low-cost" plan would cover only 65 percent of costs on average. The House of Representatives is discussing a plan to cap annual copayment and deductible costs at $11,600 for families and $5,800 for individuals.

In 2006 the state of Massachusetts adopted a law requiring mandatory health insurance coverage. Since then the uninsured rate dropped from about 6 percent to 2.6 percent. "Many of the newly 'insured' still can't purchase even basic medical services," stated a July 6 article in the *Washington Examiner*. "Over the last 12 months, about 10 percent of state residents failed to fill a prescription, missed a payment on a medical bill, or skipped essential medical care."

The Obama administration has pledged that most of the cost of implementing a "health reform" package will be covered through substantial cuts in current health-care spending. About two-thirds of the $948 billion in "savings" the president has proposed over 10 years "would come from a range of reductions in projected Medicare spending," noted the *New York Times*. Towards this end, hospital associations have announced a deal that cuts government Medicare and Medicaid payments by $155 billion over the next decade.

The Senate Finance Committee has suggested cutting Medicare payments in areas where per-beneficiary spending is above the average spent nationwide. Among the arguments put forward for such cuts is that they are needed to reduce "excessive use of medical care" and that expensive medical procedures must be "cost-effective."

"As much as 30 percent of all health-care spending in this country—some $700 billion a year—may be wasted on tests and treatments that do not improve the health of the recipients," argued the *Times* in a July 7 editorial.

Other proposals legislators are considering are to tax employee health benefits and to raise taxes on sugared soft drinks, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages.

Limited government subsidies could be provided to some workers to purchase insurance premiums. The House of Representatives is also discussing slightly expanding the number of people eligible for Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level ($14,404).

President Obama has said that he's for a government-run insurance plan to compete alongside private insurers. But he's not arguing for a single-payer system run by the government. He told a town-hall meeting in Annandale, Virginia, July 1 that such a move "could be hugely disruptive."

There are about 46 million people without health insurance in the United States, reports the Census Bureau. Of these some 18,000 die each year because of lack of available health care, according to a recent study by the Institute of Medicine.

Corrections

Last week's issue of the *Militant* contained an error in the article "Socialists win right to petition on N.Y. campus." Michael Escott is identified as the Hunter College dean of students. Escott's title is senior associate dean of student life.

The article "'Courage and discipline': traits of revolutionaries," in the July 13 issue, reported that among the next titles to be published by Pathfinder in Arabic is *Capitalism's Long Hot Winter*. It should have said *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*